

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A slider for a disk drive, the slider comprising:

a slider body including a slider body outer surface;

an inductive write head including main and return poles, the slider body outer surface being approximately parallel to the return pole; and

a slider ground pad disposed at the slider body outer surface;

an overcoat layer disposed between the main pole and the slider body outer surface; and

an electrical path between the inductive write head and the slider ground pad through the overcoat layer

~~the slider ground pad in electrical communication with the main and return poles for electrically grounding the main and return poles.~~

2. (currently amended) The slider of Claim 1 wherein the main and return poles are directly electrically connected.

3. (currently amended) The slider of Claim 1 wherein the slider ground pad is electrically connected to the main pole, the electrical path being disposed between the slider ground pad ~~and is in electrical communication with~~ the return pole through the main pole.

4. (currently amended) The slider of Claim 1 further ~~comprising~~ includes a first thin film resistor layer disposed upon the main pole towards the slider body outer surface, the slider ground pad ~~being~~ is disposed in electrical communication with the first thin film resistor

layer, the electrical path being disposed between the slider ground pad and~~is in electrical communication with~~ the return pole through the main pole.

5. (currently amended) The slider of Claim 1 further ~~comprising~~includes a read head having top and bottom shields, the top shield ~~being~~is disposed adjacent the return pole, the electrical path being disposed between the slider ground pad and~~is disposed in electrical communication with~~ the top and bottom shields.

6. (currently amended) The slider of Claim 5 wherein the electrical path is disposed between the slider ground pad and~~is disposed in electrical communication with~~ the top and bottom shields through the main and return poles.

7. (currently amended) The slider of Claim 6 wherein the return pole is directly electrically connected to the top shield.

8. (currently amended) The slider of Claim 5 wherein the read head includes a second thin film resistor layer disposed between the top and bottom shields, the electrical path being disposed between the top shield and~~is electrically connected to~~ the bottom shield through the second thin film resistor layer, the electrical path being disposed between the slider ground pad and~~is disposed in electrical communication with~~ the bottom shield through the top shield.

9. The slider of Claim 5 wherein the electrical path comprises~~further includes~~ a ground via formed in the slider body, the ground via ~~being~~is disposed in electrical communication

with the slider ground pad and the top and bottom shields, the main and return poles ~~being~~are in electrical communication with the slider ground pad through the top and bottom shields.

10. (currently amended) A disk drive comprising:

a disk drive base;

an actuator arm rotatably coupled to the disk drive base; and

a slider distally coupled to the actuator arm, the slider including:

a slider body including a slider body outer surface;

an inductive write head including main and return poles, the slider body outer surface being approximately parallel to the return pole; and

a slider ground pad disposed at the slider body outer surface;

an overcoat layer disposed between the main pole and the slider body outer surface; and

an electrical path between the inductive write head and the slider ground pad through the overcoat layer

~~the slider ground pad in electrical communication with the main and return poles for electrically grounding the main and return poles.~~

11. (original) disk drive of Claim 10 wherein the slider ground pad is electrically connected to the actuator arm.

12. (currently amended) A slider for a disk drive, the slider comprising:

a slider body having a slider body outer surface;

a read head having top and bottom shields, the slider body outer surface being approximately parallel to the top shield; and

a slider ground pad disposed at the slider body outer surface;

an overcoat layer disposed between the top shield and the slider body outer surface; and

an electrical path between the read head and the slider ground pad through the overcoat layer

~~the slider ground pad in electrical communication with the top and bottom shields for electrically grounding the top and bottom shields.~~

13. (currently amended) The slider of Claim 12 wherein the top and bottom shields are directly electrically connected.

14. (currently amended) The slider of Claim 12 wherein the slider ground pad is electrically connected to the top shield, the electrical path being disposed between the slider ground pad ~~and is in electrical communication with~~ the bottom shield through the top shield.

15. (currently amended) The slider of Claim 12 further ~~comprising~~ includes an inductive write head having main and return poles, the return pole ~~being~~ is disposed adjacent the top shield, the electrical path being disposed between the slider ground pad ~~and is disposed in electrical communication with~~ the main and return poles.

16. (currently amended) The slider of Claim 15 further ~~comprising~~includes a first thin film resistor layer disposed upon the main pole towards the slider body outer surface, the slider ground pad ~~being~~is disposed in electrical communication with the first thin film resistor layer, the electrical path being disposed between the slider ground pad ~~and is in electrical communication with~~ the return pole through the main pole.

17. (currently amended) The slider of Claim 15 wherein the electrical path is disposed between the slider ground pad ~~and is disposed in electrical communication with~~ the top and bottom shields through the main and return poles.

18. (currently amended) The slider of Claim 15 wherein the return pole is directly electrically connected to the top shield.

19. (currently amended) The slider of Claim 15 wherein the read head includes a second thin film resistor layer disposed between the top and bottom shields, the electrical path being disposed between the top shield ~~being is electrically connected to~~ the bottom shield through the second thin film resistor layer, the electrical path is disposed between the slider ground pad ~~and is disposed in electrical communication with~~ the bottom shield through the top shield.

20. (currently amended) The slider of Claim 15 wherein the electrical path comprises~~further includes~~ a ground via formed in the slider body, the ground via ~~being~~is disposed in electrical communication with the slider ground pad and the top and bottom shields, the main and

return poles ~~being~~ are in electrical communication with the slider ground pad through the top and bottom shields.

21. (currently amended) A disk drive comprising:

- a disk drive base;
- an actuator arm rotatably coupled to the disk drive base; and
- a slider distally attached to the actuator arm, the slider including:
 - a slider body including a slider body outer surface;
 - a read head having top and bottom shields, the slider body outer surface being approximately parallel to the top shield; and
 - a slider ground pad disposed at the slider body outer surface; an overcoat layer disposed between the top shield and the slider body outer surface; and
 - an electrical path between the read head and the slider ground pad through the overcoat layer
 - ~~the slider ground pad in electrical communication with the top and bottom shields for electrically grounding the top and bottom shields.~~

22. (original) The disk drive of Claim 21 wherein the slider ground pad is electrically connected to the actuator arm.

23. (new) The disk drive of Claim 12 further comprises a trace suspension assembly including a ground trace, the slider ground pad is electrically connected to the ground trace.

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24. (new) The disk drive of Claim 23 wherein the slider ground pad is electrically connected to the ground trace with a ball bond.

25. (new) The disk drive of Claim 21 further comprises a trace suspension assembly including a ground trace, the slider ground pad is electrically connected to the ground trace.

26. (new) The disk drive of Claim 25 wherein the slider ground pad is electrically connected to the ground trace with a ball bond.